



**For Release: Friday, April 14, 2017**

**17-433-NEW**

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

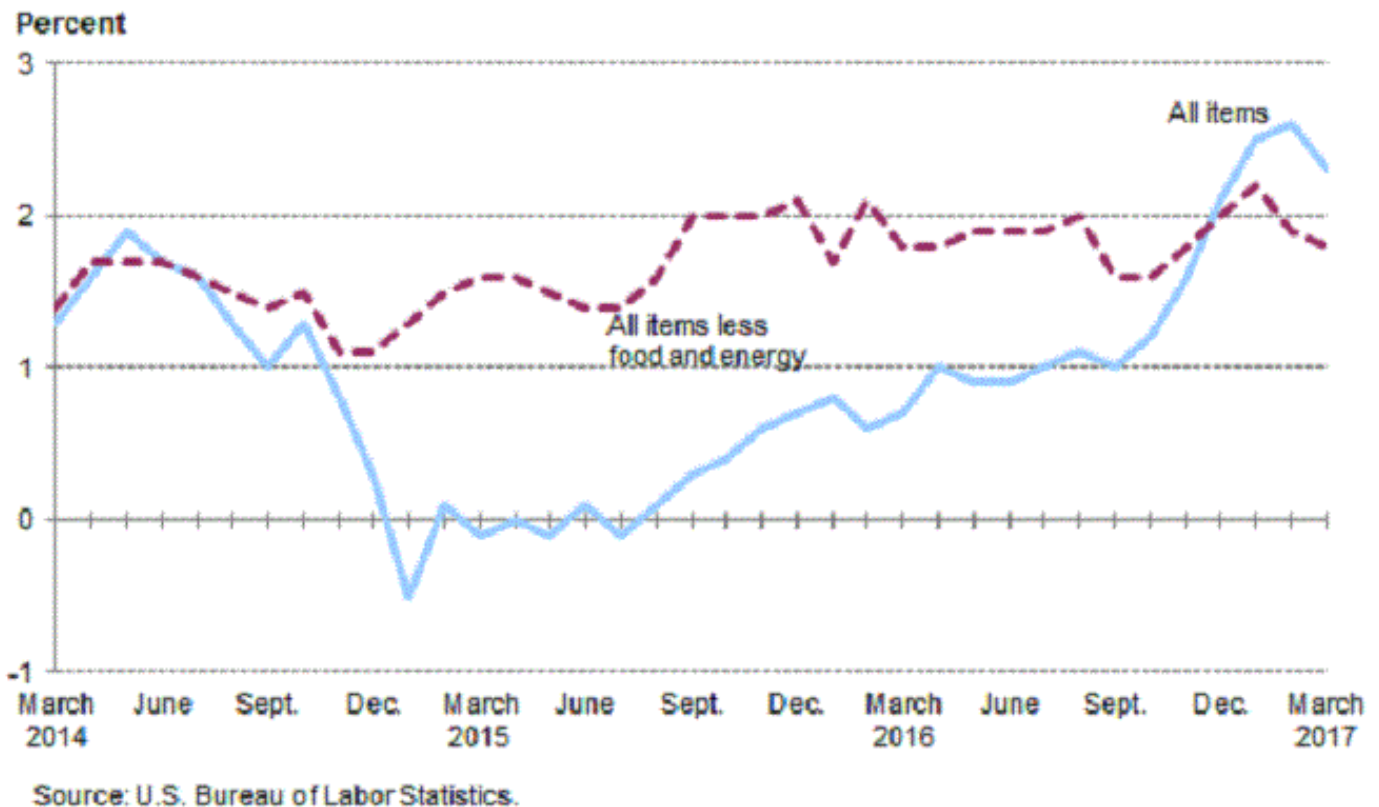
## **Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – March 2017**

### **Area prices unchanged over the month and 2.3 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were flat in March, after rising 0.3 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli explained that declining energy prices were offset by price increases for food and other items. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U advanced 2.3 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent. (See [table A](#) and [chart 1](#).) Higher prices for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, March 2014–March 2017**



### **Food**

The food index rose 0.5 percent over the month, following a 0.1-percent decline in February and a 0.6-percent increase in January. Prices for food away from home jumped 0.8 percent, while prices for food at home rose 0.3 percent. Groceries items with higher prices in March included ham, cheese, and snacks.

Over the year, the food index increased 1.3 percent, with food-away-from-home prices rising 2.9 percent. Food-at-home prices were unchanged.

### **Energy**

The energy index declined 1.4 percent in March, after rising in each of the previous four months. Falling gasoline prices led the downturn (-2.3 percent). Household energy prices also declined (-0.8 percent). Within household energy, electricity prices declined 1.2 percent, and natural gas prices, 0.4 percent.

For the year ended in March 2017, energy prices advanced 13.0 percent. Gasoline prices climbed 27.4 percent, and household energy prices rose 5.3 percent. Within household energy, natural gas increased 11.2 percent, while electricity prices declined 0.7 percent.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in March. Prices for apparel, often at this time of year, increased 2.0 percent. Prices also advanced for medical care (0.4 percent) and shelter (0.1 percent). Within shelter, price increases were reported for lodging away from home and residential rent (0.2 percent), while owners' equivalent rent was unchanged. Household furnishings and operations, on the other hand,

posted a 0.4-percent decline. Other offsetting prices included a 1.3-percent decline in the education and communication index, in part due to lower prices for land-line telephone services, and lower prices for new vehicles.

From March 2016 to March 2017, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent. Shelter prices increased 2.8 percent. Within shelter, owners' equivalent rent and residential rent each rose 2.5 percent. Medical care prices advanced 4.2 percent, and recreation prices increased 3.3 percent. Household furnishings and operations prices, by contrast, declined 2.3 percent.

**Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	2.8	0.5	2.2	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.6	0.6	2.4	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6
March.....	0.6	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3
April.....	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0		
May.....	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9		
June.....	-0.1	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(r)</sup>		
July.....	-0.2	1.1	0.2	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0		
August.....	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1		
September.....	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0		
October.....	-0.1	1.7	-0.6	1.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2		
November.....	0.0	2.0	0.1	1.2	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6		
December.....	-0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1		

Footnotes:  
(R) = revised.

## CPI-W

In March, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 262.165, unchanged over the month. The CPI-W rose 2.4 percent over the year.

**The April 2017 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Friday, May 12, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and

approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	March 2017	March 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	266.917	267.662	267.582	2.3	0.2	0.0
All items (1967=100) .....	771.621	773.774	773.542			
Food and beverages .....	258.304	258.137	259.424	1.2	0.4	0.5
Food .....	258.298	258.088	259.498	1.3	0.5	0.5
Food at home .....	249.820	249.874	250.689	0.0	0.3	0.3
Food away from home.....	277.261	276.661	278.974	2.9	0.6	0.8
Alcoholic beverages .....	253.983	254.398	254.000	0.1	0.0	-0.2
Housing .....	289.262	289.614	289.620	2.6	0.1	0.0
Shelter .....	365.684	365.599	366.030	2.8	0.1	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....	377.224	377.592	378.523	2.5	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) (2) .....	372.132	372.060	371.896	2.5	-0.1	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	371.656	371.598	371.431	2.5	-0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	184.792	187.826	186.430	4.8	0.9	-0.7
Household energy .....	176.339	179.619	178.134	5.3	1.0	-0.8
Energy services(1) .....	169.309	173.010	171.430	3.0	1.3	-0.9
Electricity(1).....	174.823	178.298	176.237	-0.7	0.8	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	150.348	154.239	153.583	11.2	2.2	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations .....	111.015	110.939	110.465	-2.3	-0.5	-0.4
Apparel .....	127.022	130.424	133.045	1.4	4.7	2.0
Transportation .....	212.861	213.382	211.912	3.9	-0.4	-0.7
Private transportation .....	200.128	199.648	197.863	4.9	-1.1	-0.9
Motor fuel .....	199.975	195.510	191.121	27.4	-4.4	-2.2
Gasoline (all types).....	199.139	194.680	190.285	27.4	-4.4	-2.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	197.956	193.165	188.519	28.4	-4.8	-2.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	208.242	205.484	202.504	23.5	-2.8	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	209.641	207.121	204.318	21.1	-2.5	-1.4
Medical care .....	474.449	474.262	476.228	4.2	0.4	0.4
Recreation(5).....	120.828	123.301	123.262	3.3	2.0	0.0
Education and communication(5).....	144.450	144.602	142.675	-0.6	-1.2	-1.3
Other goods and services .....	416.991	417.807	418.840	1.2	0.4	0.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	266.917	267.662	267.582	2.3	0.2	0.0
Commodities .....	187.433	187.427	188.169	2.1	0.4	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages ....	143.918	143.987	144.434	2.9	0.4	0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.	182.215	182.479	183.575	6.3	0.7	0.6
Durables .....	95.239	95.108	94.884	-3.0	-0.4	-0.2
Services.....	334.211	335.546	334.838	2.4	0.2	-0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	March 2017	March 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017
All items less medical care .....	257.902	258.684	258.519	2.2	0.2	-0.1
All items less shelter.....	227.812	228.898	228.609	2.0	0.3	-0.1
Commodities less food .....	148.104	148.183	148.607	2.8	0.3	0.3
Nondurables .....	221.876	221.937	223.143	3.4	0.6	0.5
Nondurables less food.....	186.601	186.875	187.884	5.8	0.7	0.5
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	310.830	313.742	311.779	1.9	0.3	-0.6
Services less medical care services.....	322.981	324.290	323.561	2.2	0.2	-0.2
Energy .....	187.773	188.161	185.553	13.0	-1.2	-1.4
All items less energy .....	276.461	277.245	277.401	1.7	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy .....	281.488	282.446	282.391	1.8	0.3	0.0

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.